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THE BRITISH DISCOVERY BARK RESOLUTE.

Arrival of the Resolute at New London,

in Charge of her Salvors.

Interview between Capt. Biddington and One

of the Herald Reporters.

Wonderful Escape of the Resolute

from the Ice.

Her Discovery One Thousand Miles from

where she was Abandoned.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE EVENT.

dec., dec., dec.

When we heard of the arrival of the British discovery

bark Resolute at New London, we despatched one of our

reporters to that place, to obtain a full account of the

discovery of the ship, her condition, and the difficulties

her rescuers had in getting her into port.

The Resolute, Captain Kellett, it will be recollected,

was one of three ships—the Investigator, Assistance and

Resolute—sent out in 1850, or thereabouts, in search of

the remains of Sir John Franklin. Some time in the

autumn of 1853, we believe, they were abandoned by

Sir Edward Belcher, in Wellington Channel, about lat.

76 and lon. 94. When found, two years afterwards, or last

September, by Captain Biddington, a gallant whaler of

New London, the Resolute had drifted through Barrow's

Strait, Beja's Bay, and into Davis Strait, a distance of

one thousand miles.

Our reporter found the Resolute at anchor in the har-

bor of New London, and her fortunate finder, Captain

Biddington, at his residence in Groton. From him the

following interesting particulars were obtained:

On the 26th of May last the whaling bark George Henry,

Capt. James M. Biddington, set sail from New London,

Conn., on a voyage to Northumberland Inlet and Davis

Strait. The bark was manned with a crew of seventeen

men, including the first and second mates. On the 14th

of June, and while in latitude 54, Capt. Biddington

encountered, and quite unexpectedly, two large fields of

ice, through which he dared not penetrate. However,

wishing to arrive at his destination as soon as possible,

he followed the edge of the "pack," as he terms it, up

north as far as latitude 67. As the ship was much

damaged by the drifting ice, Capt. B. concluded to wait

until the season here and accordingly the crew of the

bark were employed in catching whales in the open

bay, with only tolerable luck, however. The crew

are represented as being very extensive, stretching far

and wide to the north, and completely blocking up the

channel to Davis Strait. From the method of the

George Henry nothing could be distinguished but masses of

ice. Even with the aid of a telescope, nothing but

mountains could be described in the distance.

On the 28th of August, and while off Cape Wash-

ington, in lat. 67 N., the ice became to a certain extent

penetrable, and the bark was forced through it in a

southward direction for about 150 miles. At this time a

heavy gale from the northeast sprang up, which, last-

ing three days, the George Henry became so much

damaged, and the ice so much broken up, that the bark

was drifted in the ice, and on the 30th of September

Captain Biddington saw land, but could not say to what

continent it belonged.

On the 10th of September, latitude 67 N., and while in

this field of ice, Captain Biddington discovered a ship in

the distance, bearing northeast, about 20 miles from

Cape Henry. He ascended the rigging of his craft, and

looking at her through the glass, pronounced her, from

her appearance, to be an abandoned vessel. The head

of the stranger appeared to be due east, and during the

whole of that day and the one following, the course of the

ship did not vary more than a point or so from the east.

"I kept watching her," says Capt. B., "and she

kept on her course, and I could not see what was the

thing to do, except, perhaps, the ship may have

been struck by a counter current from Davis

Strait and driven towards us in that manner.

For five days we were in sight of one another

and continued to drift towards each other. On the

sixth day after making the discovery, and when the

ship was about seven miles off, Captain B. ordered

the two mates and two of the crew to proceed to the

abandoned vessel and see what she was doing, and

after inspecting her to return to the bark as soon as practicable.

Soon after the departure of the party a southeaster

wind was felt, and in consequence thereof no communi-

cation was had with them for nearly two days. At

last, on the 11th of September, the bark was seen

at last, and the ship was seen to be in a

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the search throughout the vessel, a little coal was

discovered in the hold, but the quantity was very small

and entirely inadequate to supply the vessel more

than a week. Of provisions there was enough perhaps

to last a crew of seventy-five men (the number originally

carried by the Resolute) for nine months. The salt

meats were the only articles that were in a state of

preservation. Everything had gone to decay. Even the

ship's sails, found between decks, were so rotten that

the officers could thrust their fingers through a hem in

the cloth. A great attempt was made to make a

small boat, but it was found that the canvas was

so saturated with water, that it was impossible to

make a boat of any size. The only way out of the

trouble was to wait until the ice melted. The

lower hold was found to contain the library of one of the

officers of the expedition, valued at over a thousand

dollars. The books were entirely water-soaked, and

of no value. The Resolute being entirely free of water, preparations

were made to bring the ship to the United States. Capt.

B. decided to sail the vessel himself, and accordingly,

taking eleven men with him from his own bark, he began

in good earnest to release the abandoned vessel from her

ice-bound situation. The rigging had to be hauled

and the sails put in order, before he could get away

to start. This job occupied him some time, but was suc-

cessfully accomplished. Capt. B. was in a great dilemma

for proper navigating instruments, and the wherewithal

to bring him to New London after being released from the

ice. His compass was very uncertain, and not at all

trustworthy; he was without a chronometer, and he had

no other map or chart to steer by than a rough outline of

the great North-west coast, drawn on a sheet of

paper. With his lever watch, a quadrant and a micrometer

compass, the brave fellow had to do his own business

in the dark George Henry, and, trusting to Providence

and his own skill, he set out on his hazardous

journey, but whether taken by the ship's crew or

by the intellects of those on board, the Resolute

was a valuable and extensive library of

well-selected books on board, though we are sorry

that the Resolute was not able to take them with her.

On the 10th of September, the Resolute was

found on the ice, and the Resolute was

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